



# Howard County Council

George Howard Building  
3430 Court House Drive  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

## COUNCILMEMBERS

Liz Walsh, Chair  
District 1  
Opel Jones, Vice Chair  
District 2  
Deb Jung  
District 4  
Christiana Rigby  
District 3  
David Yungmann  
District 5

### Monthly Meeting Minutes - Approved

Monday, September 13, 2021  
1:00 p.m.

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 1:04 pm

**Councilmembers present:** Liz Walsh, Chairperson; Opel Jones, Vice Chairperson; Deb Jung; Christiana Rigby; and David Yungmann.

**Staff Present:** Michelle Harrod, Council Administrator; Theo Wimberly, Administrative Manager; Margery Sayers, Executive Assistant; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor; Amanda Mihill, Assistant County Solicitor; Craig Glendenning, County Auditor

Mr. Robbins, Chief Administrator Officer introduced to the Council the new Human Resources Administrator, Anju Bennett who was appointed September 1, 2021.

#### **1. Council Meetings**

The Council had general discussion about how to proceed with Council meetings given the ongoing local State of Emergency. Discussion included implementing standards of health levels to determine public health precautions for meeting in-person; protocols to ensure participation for Council Members if quarantined required; logistics of hybrid meetings; public access and status of vaccination within the County. Consensus was to continue hybrid meetings through September and possibly into October to allow for both in-person and virtual participation for Council and the public.

#### **2. Evictions**

The Council discussed the County issue surrounding evictions. Topics discussed included statistics and demographics of those facing eviction; available funding for rental relief; application requirements and status of constituents assisted.

Director Cimino provided summary information stating \$10.1 million has been spent to date on rental assistance. The majority of households assisted are women head of households, persons of color and 52% with an average median income of 30% or less. Director Cimino reported that a total of 1,415 households have been helped. She indicated there is an undetermined amount of

Page 1 of 4



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additional funds expected from the Federal and/or State Government. In addition, Director Cimino indicated there are fewer restrictions on Federal funding which aids a larger group of constituents.

Community Action Council, and Grassroots provided the Council with details about additional staffing; a status of their application process including details about who has been helped; and disbursement of funds. Overall, these nonprofit organizations reported that funds available to them has been issued to applicants and there is not a backlog of processing applications. There was general discussion about administration of the applications; the qualifications; repeat clients; qualifying expenses covered; and rent court process.

Sheriff Harris responded to Council questions about eviction notices. Discussion included details about the volume of notices served; the Sheriff Office involvement in the eviction process; and providing information to constituents about assistance available. Director Jackie Scott provide details of their supportive role in working with Housing; the nonprofit agencies and the Sheriff.

Representatives of the United Way (UW) and Maryland Multi-Housing Association (MMHA) provided information to the Council about the Strategic Targeted Eviction Prevention program (STEP) and collaboration with landlords throughout Howard County to prevent evictions. Mr. Atzmon (UW) stated they have received \$4.6 million in funding directly from DHCD. Mr. Wiggins (MMHA) provided information about the trends of evictions.

Delegate Jen Terrasa provided the Council with information about collaborative work required to make changes at the State level to assist families in need.

### 3. Redistricting Commission Update

Donna Staton, Chair of the Redistricting Commission provided an update to the Council about the status of data released by the State in order to proceed with the redistricting process. The Commission's schedule proposes release of the Plan to the Council November 17th. Theo Wimberly provide action items and next steps available to the Council for review and approval of a redistricting plan.



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## 4. Reports

The Chair suggested the Council prepare for succession of the Chair position for this Council's final year.

MACo Vice Chair Jung provided an update from the most recent MACo Conference. Discussion included funding provided from the Federal Government to State and Local Governments; the American Rescue Act funding; and release of water from the Conowingo Dam.

The Council Administrator provided written report to the Council. Highlighted was a status on the new Council Website.

The Auditor introduced new Deputy Auditor Brenda. The Auditor written report was provided to Council. Highlighted was a status on audits, fraud report and telework.

Vice Chair Jones adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.



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## ATTENDEES

### Evictions

Kelly Cimino

Jackie Scott

Sheriff Marcus Harris

Lt. Darrin Granger

Mariana Izraelson, Executive Director

Laura Willemin, Director of Clinical and Crisis Services

Joan Morgan-Jones, Hotline Manager

Dean Turner, Community Action Council

Feben Moges, Housing Coordinator

Chinelo Osakwe, Government & Community Affairs Manager

Grason Wiggins

Tiffany Jordan, Director of Client Services

Daniel Atzmon

### Redistricting Commission Update

Donna Hill Staton

Rob Slivinsky

Jeff Bronow

Gary Kuc

Theo Wimberly

Lynne Rosen